

How to write an academic manuscript

MATSUISHI Takashi Fritz, PhD
Hokkaido University



MATSUISHI Takashi *Fritz*

松石 隆

(1964-)

Professor, PhD

Hokkaido University



Place of Birth: Tokyo, Japan

Affiliations at Hokkaido University

- Faculty of Fisheries Sciences
- Graduate School of Global Food Resources

Educational Carrier

- Visiting Prof, AIT, Thailand, 2014, 18, 19
- Visiting Prof, UB, Indonesia 2018
- Visiting Prof, UNDIP, Indonesia 2019
- Senior Academic Fellow, UNAIR, Indonesia 2024

Degree

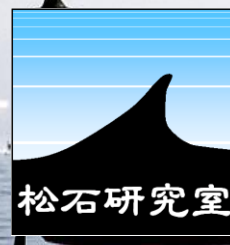
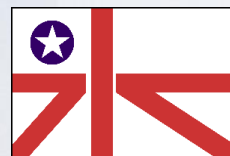
- BA Liberal Arts (1989 U Tokyo)
- MSc Agriculture (1991 U Tokyo)
- PhD Agriculture (1996 U Tokyo)

Majors

- Stock assessment / Fisheries management
- Cetology (Whale / Dolphin / Porpoise)



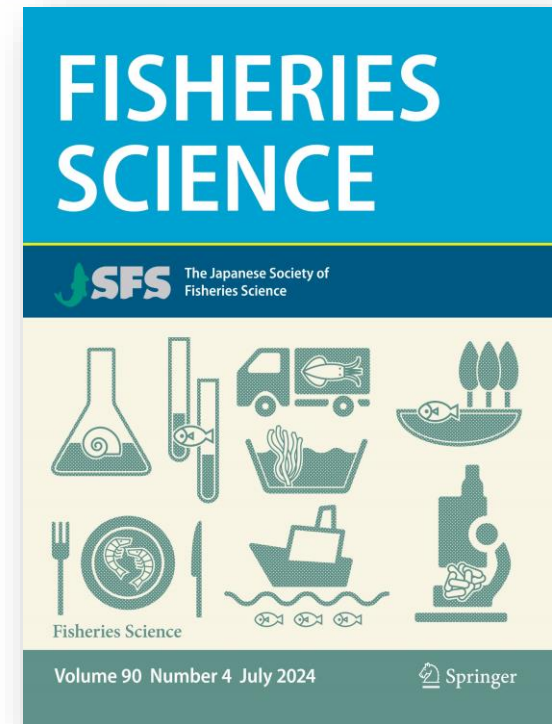
HOKKAIDO
UNIVERSITY



Fisheries Science



- Leading journal of Fisheries in the Indo-Pacific region
- Published from Springer
- Managed by the Japanese Society of Fisheries Science (JSFS)
- Covers all research fields related to fisheries, aquaculture, ocean and seafood
- Editor-in-Chief: MATSUISHI Takashi Fritz (2024–)



Q2 IF=1.9 Hybrid

Japan Cetology



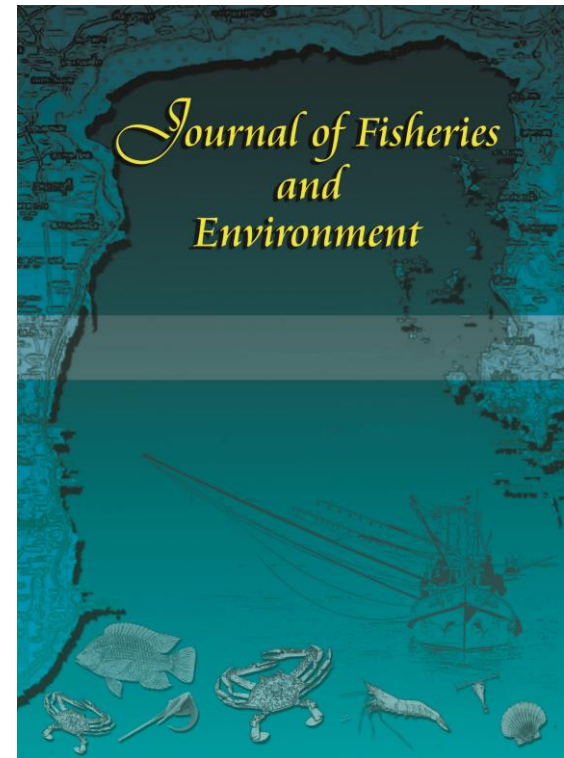
- Exclusive journal of Cetology in the Indo-Pacific region
- Published from Japan Cetology Research Group
- Covers all research fields related to cetology and marine mammals
- Editor-in-Chief:
MATSUISHI Takashi Fritz
(2007–)



Journal of Fisheries and Environment



- Former: Kasetsart University Fisheries Research Bulletin
- Editorial Board Member (2018–)



Contents

- Why publication is necessary
- Create a blueprint for the manuscript
- To start writing
- The title is most important
- Authors
- Each Chapter
- Tables and Figures
- Submission and Publication





WHY PUBLICATION IS NECESSARY

Why publication is important



- Idea
 - Book
 - Textbook
 - International Journal
 - Local Journal
 - Report
- Data
 - Web page
 - Database
 - GBIF
 - Fishbase
 - Genbank

How to find the venue

- Decide the journal first
 - Understand the target reader
 - Understand the scope of the journal
- International Journal
 - Convince to the international readers
- Local Journal
 - Sometimes much more useful than an article in a famous journal



Textbook and Journal Article

- Journal article: answer a question
 - Explain minimum knowledge to answer a question.
 - Do not be informative
- Review paper: cover a topic with recent academic papers
- Textbook: cover a wide topic with traditional papers
 - Explain the necessary knowledge to cover the topic
 - Can be informative.



How to select an academic journal



- Scope of the journal
- The journals that publish past research
- Impact Factor: average number of cited per article **only in previous two years**
- Open access or Subscription
- Cost for the publication, Article processing cost (APC)
- Time to the first decision

Home > Fisheries Science



Fisheries Science

Publishing model
Hybrid

Submit your manuscript →

Springer

JSFS

Editorial board

Aims and scope

Journal updates

Overview

Fisheries Science is a hybrid journal internationally respected for its publication of basic and applied research articles in a broad range of subject areas relevant to fisheries science, such as Fisheries, Biology, Aquaculture, Environment, Chemistry and Biochemistry, and Food Science and Technology.

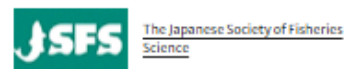
- Official journal of the Japanese Society of Fisheries Science.
- Leading journal in its field, with a long tradition of presenting quality research in fisheries science and a range of related subjects.
- Accepts Original Articles and Reviews

Editor-in-Chief
Takashi Matsuishi

Editor-in-charge
Takashi Matsuishi

Impact factor 1.9 (2022)	5 year impact factor 1.8 (2022)
Submission to first decision (median) 17 days	Downloads 229,615 (2023)

Societies and partnerships



For authors

Submission guidelines →

Language editing services →

Ethics and disclosures →

How to publish with us →

Open Access fees and funding →

Contact the journal →



Language quality checker
Get your manuscript edited for free →

Use our pre-submission checklist →





CREATE A BLUEPRINT FOR THE MANUSCRIPT

Procedure for Academic Journal Publication

1. Research
2. Presentation
3. Manuscript writing
4. English proofreading
5. Submission
6. Revision
7. Acceptance
8. Proofreading
9. Publication



Instructions for Authors

- Instructions for authors/Submission guidelines should be read through very carefully
- Manuscript style
 - Length of Abstract
 - Result and Discussion can be merged or should be separate
 - Headings with number or not
 - Conclusion part is necessary or not





Fisheries Science

Publishing model
Hybrid

Submit your manuscript →



Editorial board

Aims and scope

Journal updates

Submission guidelines

Contents

- [Instructions for Authors](#)
 - [General](#)
 - [Manuscript submission](#)
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 - [After Acceptance](#)
 - [Ethical guidelines for publication in Fisheries Science](#)
 - [Data Availability Section](#)
 - [Ethical Responsibilities of Authors](#)
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Instructions for Authors

For authors

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Language quality checker

Get your manuscript edited for free →



Article



- Title
- Authors
- Abstract
- Introduction
- Materials and Methods
- Results
- Discussion
- Conclusion
- Acknowledgements
- Declaration
 - Col (Conflict of Interest)
 - DAS (Data Availability Statement)
 - Authors contributions
- References



TO START WRITING

Presentation for writing

- Do not write the text from a white paper
- Make a presentation of the research
- Make a script for the presentation
- Make a presentation to your colleagues/supervisor
 - to check the logics
 - collect comments
- The script can be the first draft of the manuscript



Text

- Write paragraph by paragraph.
- Never write several topics in one paragraph
- The first sentence of a paragraph is the topic sentence, which describes the conclusion of the paragraph
- Do not write a long paragraph. A paragraph can have 5-10 lines in a manuscript.



Language

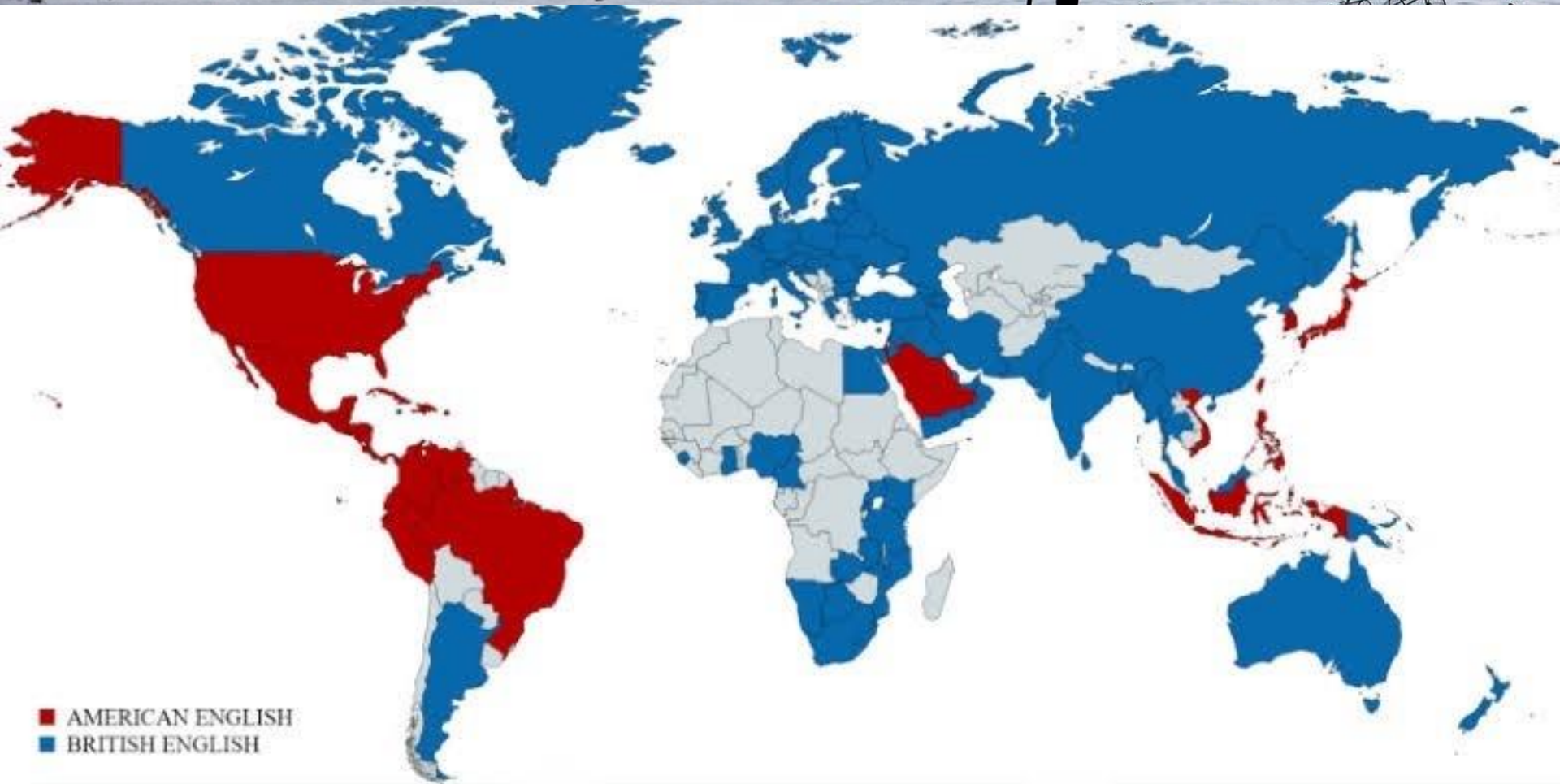
- Translator
 - DeepL can be useful when starting to write.
 - Do not rely on DeepL too much.
- Grammer Checker
 - Grammarly is very useful.
 - If you use a lot, upgrade to Premium
- English Proof Reading
 - Finally, send the manuscript to a professional English Proofreader
 - However, do not believe the proofreader



DeepL



American or British



[For Authors](#)[Editorial criteria and processes](#)[Formatting guide](#)[Presubmission enquiries](#)[Initial submission](#)[Final submission](#)

Formatting guide

This guide describes how to prepare contributions for submission. We recommend you read this in full if you have not previously submitted a contribution to *Nature*. We also recommend that, before submission, you familiarize yourself with *Nature's* style and content by reading the journal, either in print or online, particularly if you have not submitted to the journal recently.

Format of Articles

Contributions should be double-spaced and written in English (spellings as in the [Oxford English Dictionary](#)).

Contributions should be organized in the sequence: title, authors, affiliations (plus present addresses), bold first paragraph, main text, main references, tables, figure legends, methods (including separate data and code availability statements), methods references, acknowledgements, author contributions, competing interest declaration

Canadian English



Oxford English	Canadian	British	US
en-GB-oed	en-CA	en-GB	en-US
analyse	analyse	analyse	analy z e
behaviour	behaviour	behaviour	behavi o r
centre	centre	centre	center e r
defence	defence	defence	defense e
globalization	globalization	globalis s ation	globalization
realize	realize	realise e	realize



THE TITLE IS MOST IMPORTANT

Title

- Decide the title first
- Title is the most important part of the paper
 - 100 people read the title
 - 10 people read abstract
 - 1 person read text
- Some journals use Title Case
 - <https://titlecaseconverter.com/>



Example of the title

- Traditional

Length-weight relationship, condition factor, and diet analysis of thresher sharks (Family: Alopiidae) along the southern coast of India

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.fishres.2024.107067>

- New Style

Disappearing fish: Grey seal depredation in a Baltic net fishery

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.fishres.2024.107070>

Fisheries Research



Examples of the title

- International

Does application of quality assurance certification by shrimp farmers enhance feasibility of implementing traceability along the supply chain? **Evidence from Vietnam**

- Local

Recreational fishery as a conservation tool for endemic Dolly Varden *Salvelinus malma miyabei* in **Lake Shikaribetsu, Japan**





AUTHORS

Authors

- List all the contributors, and avoid less contributed persons
- Get full consensus of the manuscript
- If the contribution is not enough, you can include the name in the acknowledgement
- In some journals, authors contribution should be declared



Inappropriate authorship

- **guest/gift/honorific authorship:** having a prominent teacher who has had little or no involvement in the research as a co-author.
- **orphan authorship:** an author who has substantially contributed to the research but has been omitted from the author list by the research team in an unfair manner.
- **ghost authorship:** authors who contributed to the research but are not listed as authors. This is sometimes done to hide conflicts of interest.



CRedit

Contributor Roles Taxonomy



” **P. A.:** review and editing (equal). **K. J.:** Conceptualization (lead); writing – original draft (lead); formal analysis (lead); writing – review and editing (equal). **E. R.:** Software (lead); writing – review and editing (equal). **H. W.:** Methodology (lead); writing – review and editing (equal). **J. W.:** Conceptualization (supporting); Writing – original draft (supporting); Writing – review and editing (equal).”

<https://www.elsevier.com/researcher/author/policies-and-guidelines/credit-author-statement>

CRedit Classification:

- Conceptualization
- Methodology
- Software
- Validation
- Formal analysis
- Investigation
- Resources
- Data Curation
- Writing - Original Draft
- Writing - Review & Editing
- Visualization
- Supervision
- Project administration
- Funding acquisition



EACH CHAPTER

Abstract

- Write the abstract just before finalizing the manuscript
- Do not use break line
- Do not cite
- Should be concise and simple
- Consider the balance of each part



Introduction

- Prepare the final slide of the introduction first.
 - It should be an extended title.
- Explain everything on the final slide in the introduction part
- Start with the most important word.



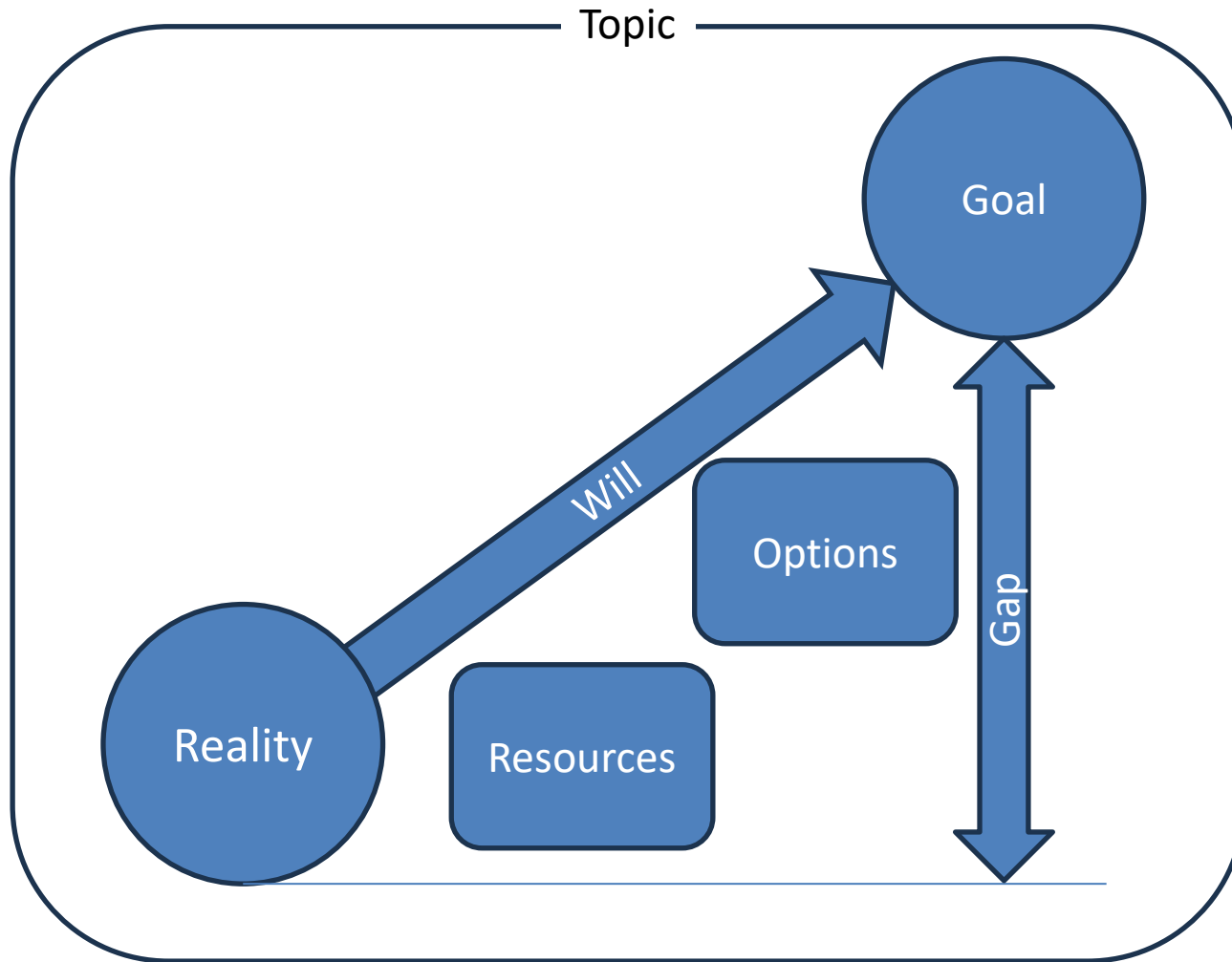
Structure of Introduction

G-R-O-W

1. **Topic:** Introduce a topic
2. **Goal:** Show an ideal situation
3. **Reality:** Describe the reality
4. **Gap:** between the Reality and the Goal
5. **Resource:** Describe the resources you can use
6. **Option:** Show an option to bridge the gap
7. **Willing:** What you will do.



G-R-O-W Model



Materials and Methods

- Simply explain the material and methods.
- Do not explain the background too much.
- Do not describe it as a textbook.



Results

- Do not discuss the interpretation of the results
- Do not duplicate the figure or table
- Explain how to read the results



Discussions

- Start from the summary of the results
- Connect the results to the title
- Answer any questions in the introduction
- Do not excuse from the first submission
- Excuse something for answering the comments from the reviewers
- Do not write too much future works



Acknowledgement

- Acknowledgement is NOT special thanks
- You should declare contributions from outside, fund, and data availability
- Sometimes, you need to declare the ethical concerns,
“The animal experimentation was conducted according to the protocol approved by... (Permit No. xxxx).”
- Data availability statement (DAS), Conflict of Interest (COI), Authors contribution may be described separately.



References

- The precision of the reference list is considered as the precision of your research.
- Use reference managing applications, e.g. Mendeley, Zotero, etc.
- Even if the title of the original paper is CAPITALISED or Title Case, basically use sentence case.
- **Cetacean Stranding Response Program and Spatial-Temporal Analysis in Taiwan, 1994–2018**
→ Cetacean stranding response program and spatial-temporal analysis in Taiwan, 1994–2018





TABLES AND FIGURES

Tables

- Show minimum information
- Do not make a too big table
- Utilise appendix/supplementary materials if you really need a big table
- Consider minimum/necessary digits
 $0.23456 \pm 0.12345 \text{ s.e.} \rightarrow 0.23 \pm 0.12 \text{ s.e.}$
- Do not change the sign of the significance level
* $p < 0.05$, ** $p < 0.01$, *** $p < 0.001$
(* $p < 0.05$ means $0.01 \leq p < 0.05$)



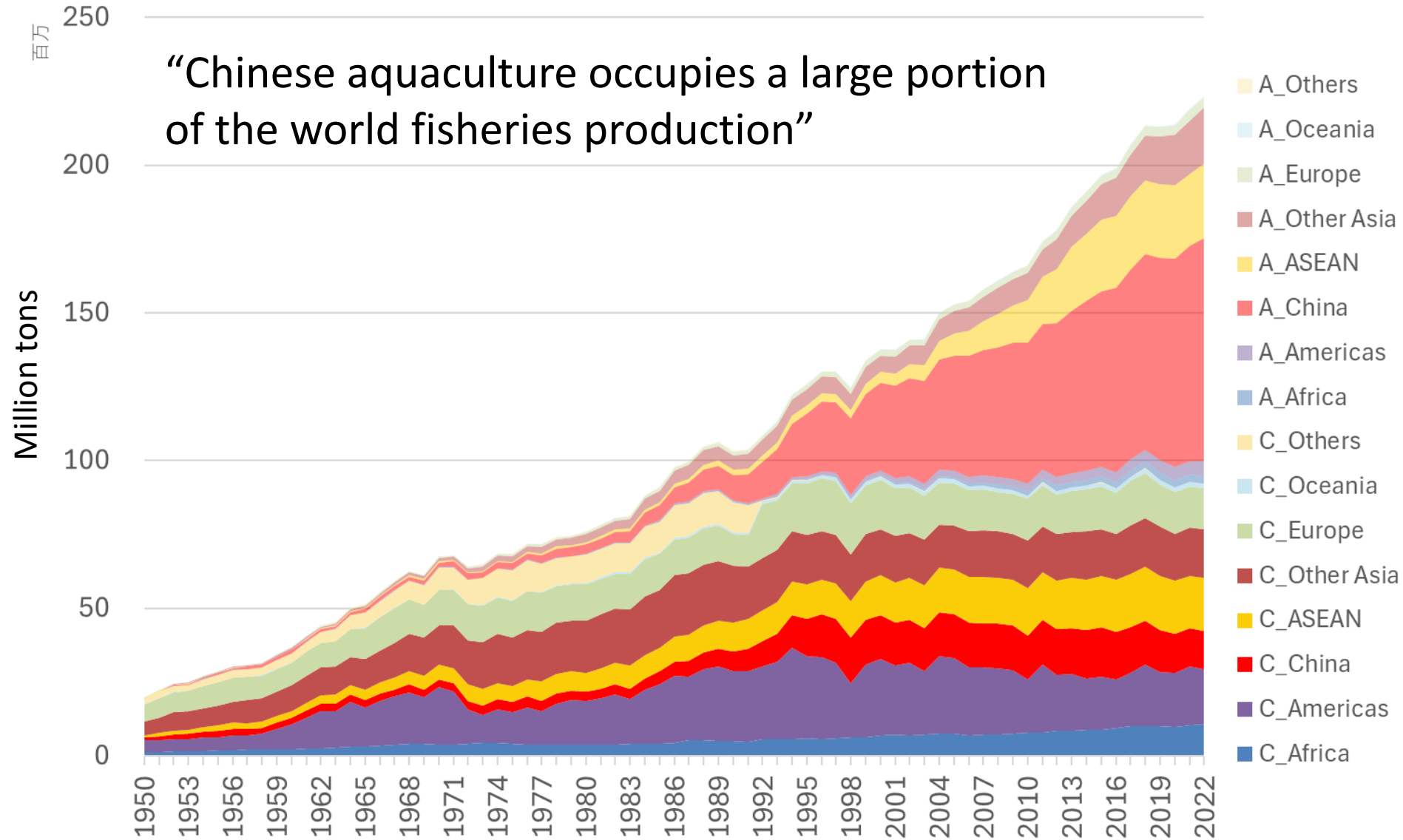
Figures

- Decide what you want to say from the figure
- Then select a proper graph
- Graph for presentation and for publication may differ
- Academic papers and Governmental reports are different
- Sometimes labels are much more important than graph panels.

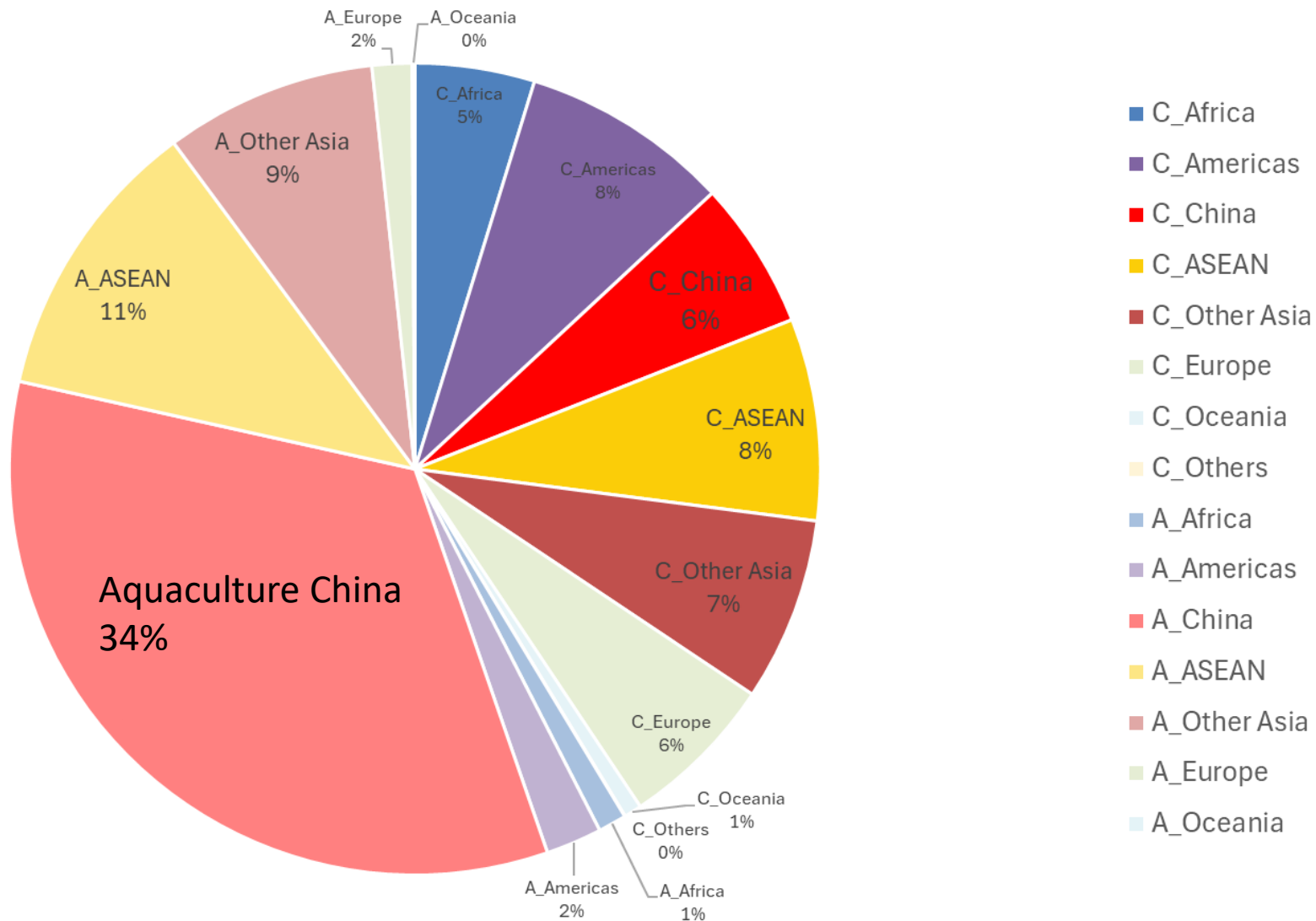


Capture and Aquaculture Production by Continents

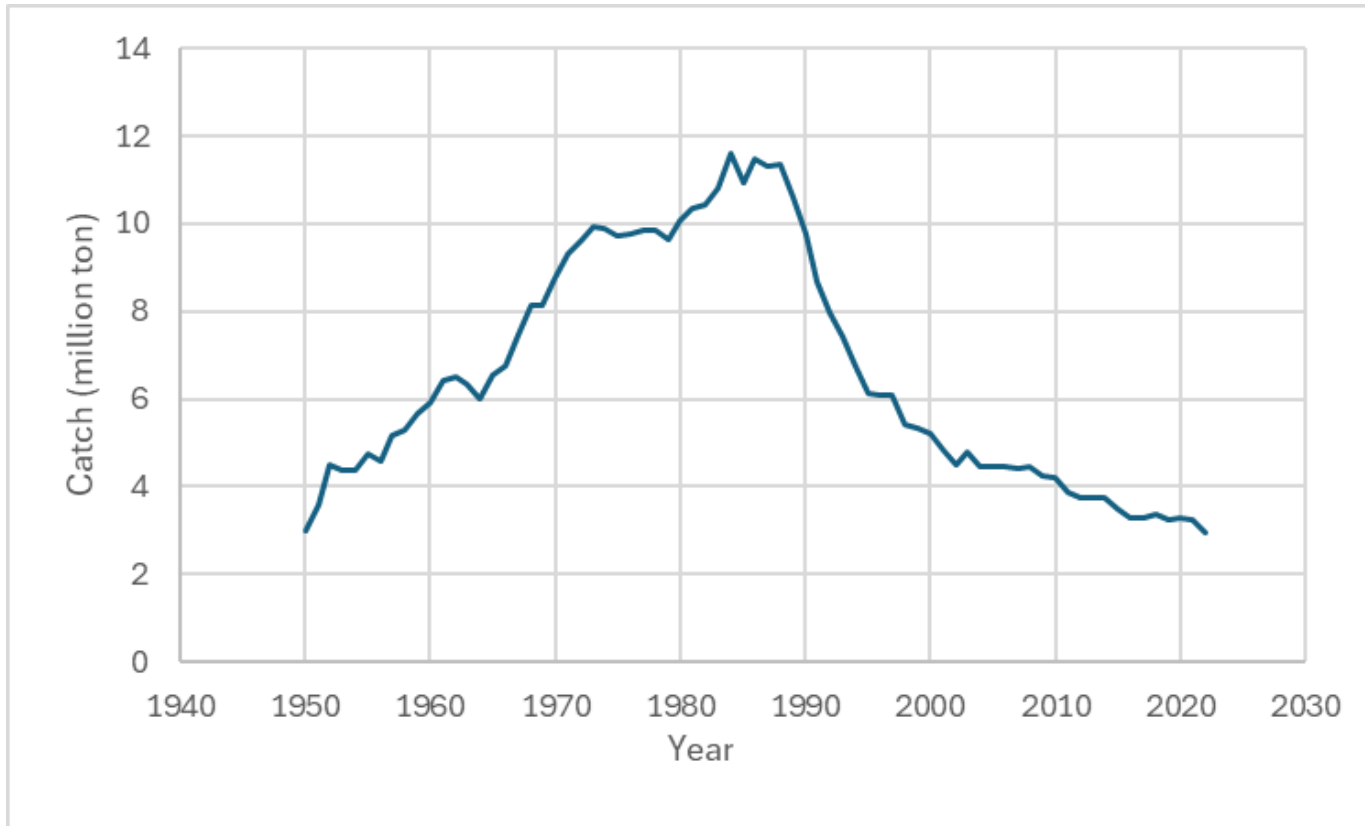
“Chinese aquaculture occupies a large portion of the world fisheries production”



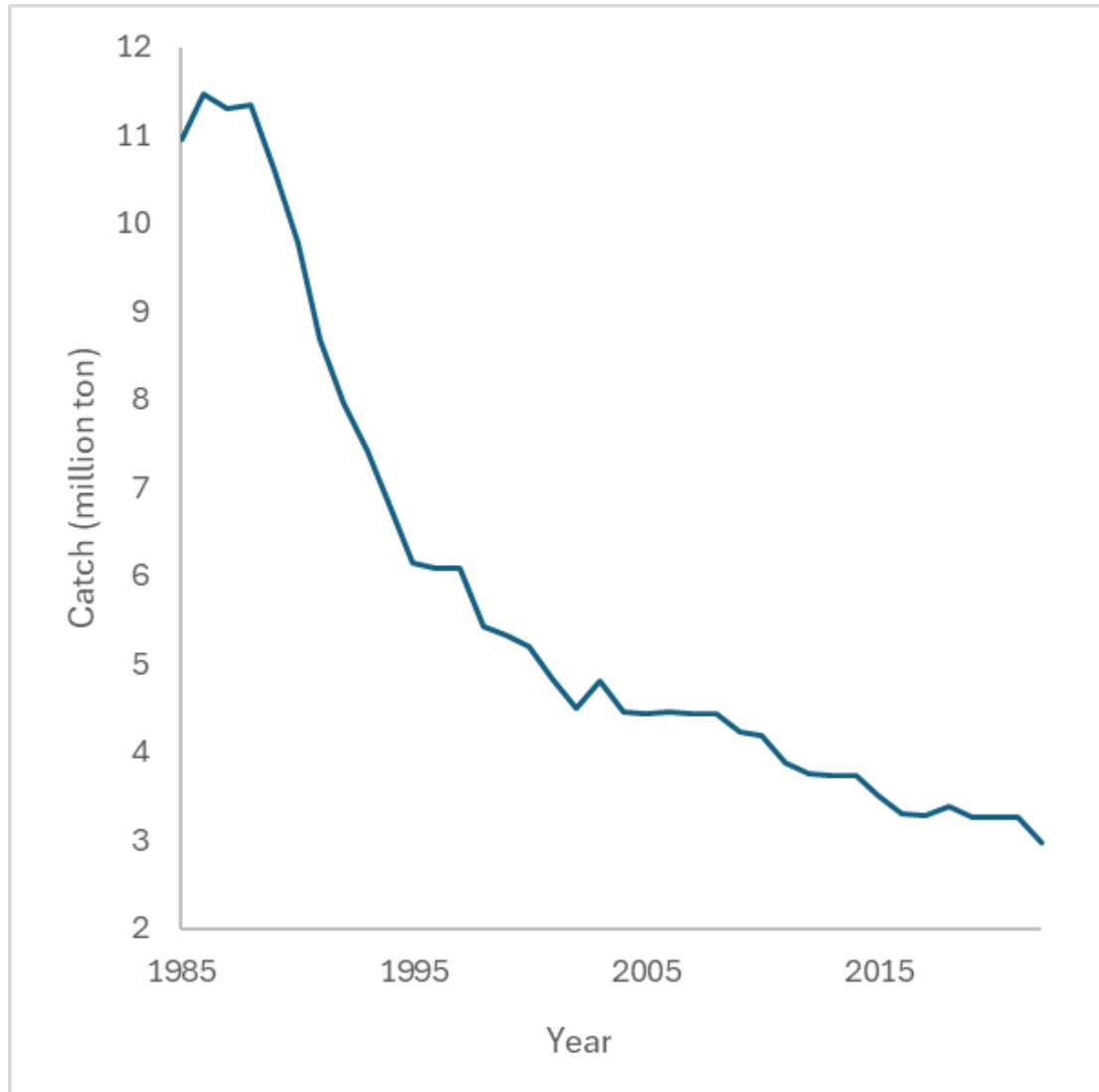
Production Share by Continents / Source in 2022



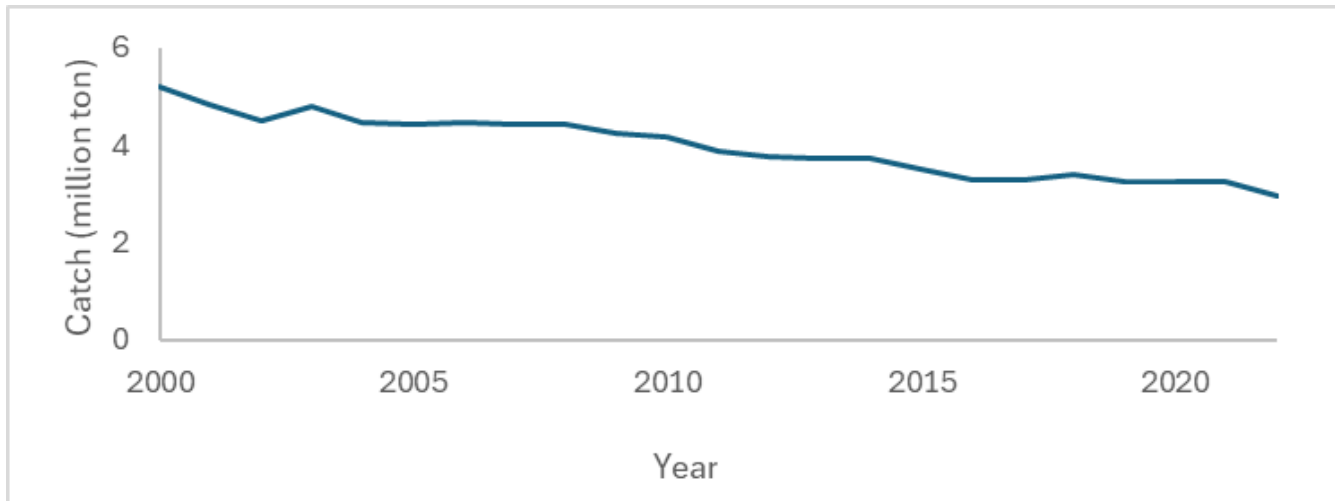
Japanese Capture Fisheries Production – All trends



Japanese Capture Fisheries Production – decreasing trend



Japanese Capture Fisheries Production- stable trend



Statistical Test

- Do not rely on the statistical test.
- Guess the result from raw data.
- Use statistical tests to explain the results.
- Do not use statistical tests to show similarity
 - No significant difference does NOT mean similar
 - If you want to say similar, use another analysis





SUBMISSION AND PUBLICATION

Submission

- Collect all the necessary materials
 - Manuscript
 - After English proof reading
 - After approval of the co-authors
 - Cover letter
 - List of potential reviewers
 - Declarations
- Check the final PDF carefully
 - Equations, Figures



Revision

- If rejected, find another venue for publication
- If your manuscript is not rejected, it is almost done
- Make a clear rebuttal table with Excel
Line number | Comment | Rebuttal
- Reviewers/Editor may check only the rebuttal table
- Add some excuse in the Discussion.
- If very difficult, include in the future works



Rebuttal Preparation



L	Comment	Student's response	Supervisor's response
11-12	Please use Past tenses for these sentences	It was revised in the manuscript; please see L17.	OK
33-34	The abbreviation SPR for "spawning-stock per recruit" is not a common term. SPR usually refers to "Spawning Potential Ratio". I suggest author(s) change the term with Spawning Stock Biomass per Recruit OR Spawning Biomass per Recruit (SSBPR or SBPR) to avoid confusion.	SPR changed to Spawning Biomass per Recruit throughout manuscript.	I can't entirely agree with the opinion of the referee. Please refer to the following papers and make a rebuttal. Mace, P. M., & Sissenwine, M. P. (1993). How much spawning per recruit is enough?. Canadian Special Publication of Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences, 101-118.

Published

- Share your paper with your SNS, colleagues, and friends in the same research field research
- Number of citations is a very important index of your research activities
- H-index : you have n papers that have been cited from more than n researchers



Enjoy Writing

